

Boston wins award

A special award was presented to the Boston Federal Executive Board (FEB) last month by Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs. Award recognizes the Boston FEB's outstanding contribution to consumer affairs.

There are FEBs in 25 cities. Each FEB's membership is comprised of the highest official of every Federal agency with an office in that locality.

Consumer projects organized by the Boston FEB include:

- An emergency aid center speedily set up to assist victims of the October 1973 fire in Chelsea.
- Workshops & team visits arranged to help senior citizens deal with consumer problems.
- Spanish-language television series developed for consumer education.
- Consumer complaint centers set up at shopping centers & fairs.

Detergents checked

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has begun an antitrust investigation of the detergent & soap industries.

FTC is placing particular emphasis on possible monopolistic practices relating to the manufacture & sale of detergents used in washing clothes. Inauguration of inquiry does not necessarily mean violation of law has occurred.

Consumers are invited to send comments to Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

Misbranded foods

General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, has published a report titled *Need for Regulating the Food Salvage Industry to Prevent Sales of Unwholesome & Misbranded Foods to the Public*.

The report discusses Federal legislation—administered by Agriculture Dept. & Health, Education & Welfare Dept. (HEW)—that covers misbranding; & it makes recommendations for improved enforcement of these laws.

Free copies of the report are available to nonprofit groups, college libraries, faculty & students; write to GAO, Distribution Section, Room 4522, 441 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20548. For the general public, copies cost \$2 each & may be ordered from GAO, Distribution Section, P.O. Box 1020, Washington, DC 20013; make check payable to General Accounting Office.

consumer news

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
Office of Consumer Affairs
Virginia H. Knauer, Director

Vol. 5, No. 14, July 15, 1975

Dear Consumer:

Many of you have written about the shortage of canning lids. I know how frustrating it can be to work so hard in the garden and then not find any lids.

Readers have asked basically 3 questions: When can I get lids? Why is there a shortage? What do I do if I can't get any lids?

I cannot tell you when lids will arrive in any particular community. I can tell you that lids are being manufactured in record numbers. But they are also being purchased in record numbers.

There are in the marketplace 3 critical factors causing the shortage. First, a growth in real demand. This means that with 12 million new gardeners in the past 2 years, and with canning plans by veteran gardeners increased substantially, there are many more buyers.

The second critical factor is called exaggerated demand. This means that some people are buying far more than they need. Consequently, many gardeners with real needs are unable to buy lids.

Last, because of both real and exaggerated demand, it is impossible for all the manufacturers to make enough products even though most are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What can you do if you can't get any lids?

First, if you have a freezer, use it to preserve your crops. Second, if you are fortunate enough to have a nearby canning center, you may be able to use that. Call your state department of agriculture or your agriculture extension agent for information. Third, you may want to look into dehydration. Visit your local library for a book on the subject.

I am beginning to think that the best answer lies in some form of a farmers market. Coming from Pennsylvania, where farmers markets flourish, I know how popular they can be with the public.

You may want to get together with a few of your fellow gardeners and set up your own market—either in front of your garage or at a vacant lot. Check with your local county or municipal authorities to see if you need to have a special license. Explain your problem and I am sure they will cooperate with you.

In the meantime, I promise to keep up my efforts at solving the gardener's number one problem—shortage of replacement lids. But remember, I need your help. Please buy only what you need.

Sincerely,

Consumer News Index: Volume 5, part 1: Jan. 1, 1975-June 15, 1975

Below is an index to CONSUMER NEWS & its supplements CONSUMER REGISTER & RATE REGISTER for the issues published Jan. 1, 1975, through June 15, 1975.

Date & page of the newsletter are given after each subject. "Condominiums May 1:1" means an item about condominiums appeared on page 1 of May 1 issues of CONSUMER NEWS. Subjects that appeared in the CONSUMER REGISTER or the new RATE REGISTER are designated by "CR" or "RR" before date & page number. "CR June 15:1" means page 1 of June 15 issue of CONSUMER REGISTER. "RR May 15:2" means page 2 of May 15 issue of RATE REGISTER.

All recalls & warnings are listed only once—under main entries for "Recalls" & "Warnings." All new laws & Supreme Court decisions are also listed only once—under "Laws" or "Supreme Court."

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● **TIRES**—Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. recalls 9,404 tubeless car tires with the following brand names & serial numbers & in the following sizes:

F78-14 Cooper Trendsetter polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTL7FNE 095; UTL7FNE 105.

H78-15 Cooper Trendsetter polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTVXFNK 085; UTVXFNK 095; UTVXFNK 105.

F78-14 Grantmaster Four 78 polyester black sidewall. Identification numbers: UTL7FUN 085; UTL7FUN 095; UTL7FUN 105.

G78-15 Grantmaster Four 78 polyester black sidewall. Identification numbers: UTVVFUU 095; UTVVFUU 105.

F78-14 Hercules Saftipreme 78 polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTL7FN3 085; UTL7FN3 095; UTL7FN3 105.

H78-14 Hercules Saftipreme 78 polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTMBFN5 085; UTMBFN5 095; UTMBFN5 105.

H78-15 Hercules Saftipreme 78 polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTVXFN7 085; UTVXFN7 095; UTVXFN7 105.

F78-14 Superior polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTL7H2W 085; UTL7H2W 095.

G78-15 Superior polyester white sidewall. Identification numbers: UTVVH2Y 085; UTVVH2Y 095; UTVVH2Y 105.

H78-15 Superior polyester white sidewall. Identification num-

bers: UTVXH21 085; UTVXH21 095; UTVXH21 105.

L78-15 Superior polyester white sidewall. Identification number: UTV3H22 085; UTV3H22 095; UTV3H22 105.

WHAT TO DO: Return to dealer for free replacement. Do not drive on highways with these tires.

● **CARS**—Jeep Corp. announces that carburetors in certain Matador 1975-model & Jeep 1975-model vehicles may have 2 defects: (1) Fuel inlet sealing plug may become loose & drop out, causing gas to be discharged under pressure into engine compartment; (2) secondary throttle lockout lever may be mismatched, causing secondary throttle plates to be held open & to continue accelerating after accelerator pedal is released.

WHAT TO DO: Contact dealer to have him replace plug & throttle lever without charge. If dealer cannot handle promptly, contact local zone office (see owners manual) or Jeep Corp. owner hotline (1-800-521-7500; in Michigan, call 1-800-572-9570). If unable to obtain repair without charge, contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400-7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20590.

● **CARS**—American Motors Corp. announces recall of 957 1975-model cars that must have the jack assembly replaced. Original jack may not be stable under load in raised position. This could cause jack to collapse without warning, resulting in possible car damage or bodily injury.

WHAT TO DO: Until jack assembly is replaced without charge by

dealer, do not use jack which is now in car.

● **CARS**—American Motors Corp. announces recall of 1,101 1975-model cars that should have strut rod bushing retaining nuts replaced. The nuts that help to keep part of the front end suspension within proper alignment may be sub-standard. This could cause loss of vehicle control & result in an accident without warning.

WHAT TO DO: Until retaining nuts are replaced without charge by dealer, use car as little as possible. Avoid driving at high speeds & avoid making severe stops.

● **SACCHARIN**—Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announces that E.B. Squibb & Sons Inc., Princeton, NJ, is recalling Squibb Saccharin Tablets, ¼ grain, 500 tablets in glass bottle with screw-on cap. Lot numbers: 4J262, 4M295, 5B380F. Company estimates that approximately 50,000 bottles remain on market. Reason: Bottles may explode due to new capping procedure which caused pressure to build up in the bottles. **WHAT TO DO:** Return bottles to store.

● **CANNED CHICKEN**—Agriculture Dept.'s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announces that Swift Dairy & Poultry Co. is recalling 147 cases of underprocessed chicken in 3 lb. cans. Cans carry the label "Swift's Premium Brand Whole Chicken" & bear code number "E055" on lid. All but 29 cases have been accounted for.

WHAT TO DO: Return unopened cans to store.

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First Class



Consumer News: July 15

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SERIALS DEPT
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300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48106

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